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# CURRENT LITERATURE

## MINOR NOTICES

**Malayan ferns.**—This work<sup>1</sup> presents in a single volume a synoptical treatment of all ferns known to occur in the Malayan Archipelago; its elaboration has been carried on mainly at Buitenzorg, where the facilities for studying dried and living material of this group of plants are exceptionally good. A compendium of the families, tribes, and genera introduces the body of the work; and the sequence of families, the limitation of genera, and the nomenclature are for the most part in accordance with ENGLER and PRANTL'S *Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien*. Fairly concise and clear keys precede the carefully drawn descriptions whenever the genus consists of two or more species, and the bibliography and synonymy are given in some detail; but it is unfortunate that the author has cited so few exsiccatae. The extended spacing and the numerous blank pages make the volume unnecessarily bulky. Moreover, the appendix of some 58 pages, treating principally of ferns discovered after January 1, 1907, and 11 pages of "additions, modifications, and corrections" which the author suggests "may be cut out and pasted on the places indicated" will mar materially the practical use of the work. It would seem almost as though publication might better have been delayed until such necessary additions and corrections could have been incorporated in the body of the text. On the whole, however, the work represents careful collation, combined with a large amount of original research, and presents in available and reliable form a comprehensive treatment of approximately 1500 species and numerous varieties, representing 10 families and 95 genera. The book doubtless will find a useful place in the taxonomic literature of ferns.—J. M. GREENMAN.

**Warming's *Ecology of plants*. A correction.**—My attention has been called to an unfortunate error in my review of WARMING'S *Ecology*,<sup>2</sup> viz., the statement that the work was written in English by the author, assisted by Dr. VAHL. As a matter of fact the work, as it has appeared, is a translation by Professors BALFOUR and GROOM from manuscript prepared by Professor WARMING and Dr. VAHL. My mistake was due to the statement on the title-page: "prepared for publication in English by PERCY GROOM," etc. (which might have been less vague if printed: "translated from manuscript," etc.), and by a personal knowledge of WARMING'S facility in the English language. It is certainly scant

<sup>1</sup> VAN ALDERWERELT VAN ROSENBURGH, C. R. W. K., Malayan ferns. Handbook to the determination of the ferns of the Malayan Islands (incl. those of the Malay Peninsula, the Philippines, and New Guinea). Royal 8vo. pp. xl + 899 + 11. Batavia: Landsdrukkerij. 1908.

<sup>2</sup> BOT. GAZETTE 48: 149-152. 1909.

enough credit to a translator to acknowledge his full share in such a work as this, a share that is most burdensome, and too little appreciated as a rule. English and American readers are certainly most grateful to Professors BALFOUR and GROOM for making accessible not only this new ecological treatise, but the other great ecological masterpiece as well, SCHIMPER'S *Plant geography*.—H. C. COWLES.

**Pharmakognostischer Atlas.**—KOCH<sup>3</sup> has followed his *Mikroskopische Analyse der Drogenpulver* with a second part for the use of apothecaries, wholesale druggists, sanitary officials, students of pharmacy, etc. In the arrangement of the text the author has followed his old scheme of different types, numerals, and indentations for greater facility in locating the various histological structures. Each drug has careful outlines on its preparation for microscopical observation and detailed descriptions of the individual tissues. Excellent plates of transverse and longitudinal sections serve to make these descriptions remarkably clear. The first *Lieferung* is devoted to cascarilla, red cinchona, and cinnamon barks. The complete work will certainly be useful in the recognition of crude drugs.—K. G. BARBER.

**Methods in microscopy.**—The second edition of the *Praktikum* of MÖBIUS<sup>4</sup> has about the same scope as the first. Directions are given for making preparations and also for some study of the preparations. Only the simplest methods are given, no attention being paid to the paraffin method or to critical methods of staining; in fact, most of the directions, in American schools, would be given orally or would be written on the blackboard for elementary classes which have no need as yet for any complicated technic. Of the 123 pages, 92 are devoted to spermatophytes, 6 to pteridophytes, 5 to bryophytes, and 20 to thallophytes.—CHARLES J. CHAMBERLAIN.

## NOTES FOR STUDENTS

**Genetics.**—In the fourth report to the Evolution Committee of the Royal Society, BATESON, SAUNDERS, and PUNNETT<sup>5</sup> present an account of their further studies with poultry, sweet peas, and stocks. Valuable summaries are given of all the studies that have been made on these subjects, the most interesting feature being the further evidence of the occurrence of such ratios as 7:1:1:7 and 15:1:1:15. It is suggested that the types of gametic coupling evident in cases of this kind might explain the occurrence of certain aberrant forms which are generally looked upon as mutants. The term "spurious allelomorphism" is proposed

<sup>3</sup> KOCH, LUDWIG, *Pharmakognostischer Atlas*. I, Die Rinden. I Bd. 1 Lief. pp. 26. pls. 5. Leipzig: Gebrüder Borntraeger. 1909. M 3.50.

<sup>4</sup> MÖBIUS, MARTIN, *Botanisch-mikroskopisches Praktikum für Anfänger*. Second edition. 8vo. pp. ii + 123. Berlin: Gebrüder Borntraeger. 1909. M 3.20.

<sup>5</sup> BATESON, W., SAUNDERS, MISS E. R., AND PUNNETT, R. C., *Experimental studies in the physiology of heredity*. Reports to the Evolution Committee of the Royal Society 4: 1-40. 1908.